

REMARKS

Please note the new Attorney Docket Number 176630, replacing old Attorney Docket Number 033323-002.

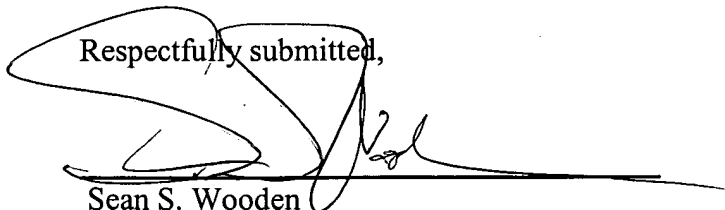
Claims 1-21 are pending. Claim 1 is amended as agreed to with the Examiner in a December 7 telephonic interview in order to place the claims in condition for allowance. Examiner indicated that claim 1, as amended, overcomes all rejections and references of record. Claim 3 is canceled as it is incorporated into claim 1. Claims 8-21 are canceled without prejudice to expedite allowance; Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuation. All of these amendments are made to expedite allowance of the case and no range of equivalents is intended to be surrendered by this Amendment. No new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

If the Examiner believes that a personal or telephonic interview would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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